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British Students Stirred by CIA Case

By Karl E. Meyer

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LONDON, Feb. 20 — Disclosures that the U.S. National Student Association has received secret subsidies from the Central Intelligence Agency caused a kickback in Britain today.

Geoffrey Martin, 24, president of Britain's National Union of Students flew early today to the headquarters in Leyden, The Netherlands, of the non-Communist International Student Conference to see whether his organization should pull out.

Martin's departure followed an all-day debate Sunday of the NUS executive board concerning future British relations with the NSA. The board decided to continue its ties with NSA since the secret subsidy reportedly ended in 1965.

The sense of the board meeting, according to NUS secretary Trevor Fiske, was that the British organization "naturally regretted what had happened but now felt it was something in the past."

Nevertheless, the disclosure that beginning in 1951 NSA was getting annual sums reportedly as high as \$400,000 from the CIA has had a powerful demoralizing effect here.

NSA took the lead in organizing the non-Communist ISC at a meeting in Stockholm in 1950. The aim was to counter the pro-Communist International Union of Students.

Some 50 Western and non-aligned student organizations are now affiliated to the ISC. But what raised doubts about the ISC were reports that it had received some funds from the Foundation of Youth and

Student Affairs, reputedly, a CIA conduit.

Britain's NUS represents 366,000 students in 670 universities and colleges. It receives some foundation and government grants but finances the bulk of its international activities from student subscriptions and profits from a holiday travel bureau.

The NUS does get direct government grants from the British Council, an official agency set up in 1934 with Foreign Office support to assist overseas cultural projects.

The Council has given the NUS a grant of some \$8400 to assist a student exchange program with the Soviet Union. Another \$2800 was contributed for an exchange program with Chile.

Besides this, the NUS has also sent \$2800 to help defend students in South Africa who

have run afoul of racist apartheid laws. This sum was contributed by an unnamed industrial trust with interests in South Africa.

"But we are certain that it is private," an NUS spokesman said of the trust. We verified its nature before taking a shilling."

Next month, the NUS will be among 10 Western European student associations participating in Edinburgh at a conference on European education. NSA is to send an observer to this meeting, which the ISC organized.